



BGHA AGM Held: May 10, 2018 @ 7:00pm
Location: Tournament Boardroom WGSC

Call to Order

7:05pm

Attendance and Introductions

Board Members – Pete Hogarth, Eric Herron, Rich Copeland, Shane Ferras, Michelle Smith, Cathy Drinkwater, Sarah McClelland Kelly Fullerton, Kyle Richie, Sandy Myers

Regrets – Melanie Morissette,

Members – see sign in sheet

Pete Hogarth - President

Welcome everyone to the 2017-18 AGM, the 42nd year. Provided explanation of how meeting will run: Introductions, board reports, questions, elections, bylaws.

Approval and Amendment of Minutes of 2016-17 AGM

Eric, motion to approve the 2016-17 AGM minutes, seconded by Cathy, all in favour, none opposed, motion passed.

Peter Hogarth - President

Provided a brief overview of some of the highlights of the season that will be spoken about by board members;

-successful tournament despite the challenges that Mother Nature caused

-hosted Super Sunday

-programs added to association – mentorship, fundraising, policies; did a complete overhaul and changed some and added some

-tryout process – much smoother than in years past

-website – tracking to be able to forecast future needs, re-designed to be able to navigate throughout the website more easily, updated and provided more information for coaches, parents and players

Eric Herron – 1st Vice President

Provided an overview of the position, oversee bylaws and policies to ensure that they are current, relevant and being updated as needed. Mentioned that the position is open for next season.

Ice Kittens program had another successful year. Intermediate program, lots of girls aging out, maybe reach out to Laurier students to see if there is interest. Some players participated in 'Longest Game of the Year' but perhaps organization could promote it to get more of the BGHA girls involved.

Rich Copeland – 2nd Vice President

League still providing socks for players and players are now purchasing their own jerseys which is working well. Looking for a Tyke sponsorship for next year. The equipment exchange program is still going well and still receiving lots of donations.

Shane Ferras – Rep Convener

Provided an overview of the 2017-18 season, a very successful season;

-3 more teams than the previous season; Atom B, Atom C & Midget B

-Scholarship program – criteria are ready, just needs to be launched

-Ice Cat of the Week program – players especially younger players like being featured on the website

-Tryout numbers were strong; 250 players were at tryouts (60 were Atom players and 58 were Peewee players), 85 out of town players, 22 coaches have applied for next season, 9 of which are new to coaching and 4 are women

-hoping to add a Bantam AA and a Peewee AA team next season

Overall the future looks bright for the Brantford Girls Hockey Association.



Michelle Smith – House League Convener

Provided an overview of the position, oversee the entire House League program. Mentioned that the position is open for next season.

Hosted another successful Super Sunday, despite some suspensions in the Midget and Intermediate levels. GHGHL is enforcing stronger suspensions to cut down on the amount of issues in those divisions. Brantford's Novice team never won a game all year and won 2 games at Super Sunday.

Cathy Drinkwater – Registrar

All is well with the registration process, registration this past season was the highest the organization has had on 10 years and as Shane said the future looks good for the BGHA.

Sarah McClelland – Treasurer

Provided a general overview of financials for the 2017-18 season, still waiting for final audit to come back. Will be posted to website.

Kelly Fullerton - Tournament Convener

Provided an overview of the position, oversee the Walter Gretzky Tournament. Mentioned that the position is open for next season.

Walter Gretzky tournament was very successful even though we lost the ice at Civic Centre, Hamilton came to our aid and teams gave up ice to accommodate us. Everyone was very supportive and had a great time and no major complaints.

Already have 72 emails from teams wanting to get into next year's tournament.

Picture Day – Barbara Myltschenko was the photographer and there was a 96% purchase rate from members.

Melanie Morissette – Secretary

Great turnout at the banquet this year, numbers doubled from previous 452 players, coaches and parents attended this year. LaBottega catered.

Kyle Ritchie – Director Sponsorship and Fundraising

Happy with the way the board is headed and has seen a positive shift in the organization through membership, board members, updating policies and procedures and technology specifically the updates on the website. Monies raised through the NHL Lottery fundraiser allowed the organization to provide development sessions to all teams, and created fund to help families with financial restraints pay for registration etc. All prizes for the fundraiser were donated so the return could be high. A private sponsor was able to donate money to allow us to have the Zamboni on Rink 1 & 2 be wrapped with graphics advertising the Brantford Ice Cats for a 1 year lease and it looks amazing! The goal is to have corporate sponsorships for the league will provide development and financial assistance to members for years to come.

Sandy Myers – Director Public Relations, Photos and Banquet

Updates provided by Mel and Kelly.



Questions from the Membership

- 1. Jodie Cavanagh – How can I donate to the equipment exchange program?**
We take donations of all equipment with the exception of helmets due to the CAS expiry sticker. Touch base with Rich to set up a time to drop off directly to him or look for days where we advertise that we are collecting and drop off at arena.
- 2. Jodie Cavanagh – When can we register for House League for next year?**
It will go on the website closer to August/September and you will need to register right away as House League fills up very quickly.
- 3. Frank Farkus – When will financials be posted on the website?**
Waiting on audit so can't be posted until that is complete.
- 4. Frank Farkus – Can surplus money be used to reduce registration costs?**
Good question however a cost analysis was done to look at registration fees and they are right on point. We have one of the lowest registration fees as compared to other organizations. We are able to keep our registration fees lower due to fundraising being able to offset costs of equipment, house league jerseys, development etc.
- 5. Jodie Cavanagh – Rep players pay for their own jerseys but house league is paid for?**
Yes, when we discussed having rep players purchase their own jerseys we researched and found that most of the other organizations locally do the same thing and our members seem happy with being able to own their jersey and use for years to come.
- 6. Jodie Cavanagh – Could the surplus money not be used to pay for ice time?**
We currently hold the \$500.00 carding fee back for ice times. What people don't realize is that it isn't just ice time, which has increased and County ice is more expensive than City ice but the costs of referees and time keepers continue to rise as well. Ice cost is not set by the organization it is set by the City and the County.
- 7. Jodie Cavanagh – Does the league advertise in schools? I always see flyers come home for soccer, dance but never for hockey.**
We have reached out to schools and currently have flyers being handed out in 25-30 schools however it isn't a board wide decision it is up to the principal if they want to distribute flyers to students. Grand Erie schools are more receptive then Brant Haldimand Catholic District School Board.
- 8. Frank Farkus – You say the Brantford Girls Hockey is a growing organization but why don't we have a A/AA team top to bottom? Why aren't we able to compete with centres of the same population?**
We feel that we are headed in that direction, with new board members brings new ideas to draw players in from other centres which has Shane mentioned we are starting to see more out of towners. We also recognize the we need to grow from the bottom up which we are doing through our Ice kittens program, the tyke program and the development that we offer and pay for. It's a process that takes time.
- 9. Frank Farkus – Can you explain the hiring process for coaches?**
We post for coaches like all other centres and follow the same process. All coaches are interviewed by a committee that is made up of board members, once the committee decides on a coach it is brought back to the board for discussion and final approval and then a coach is awarded a team. We provide full transparency throughout the process. **Jodie Cavanagh – Is it a scored interview?** No.



Elections for 2018-2019

1st Vice President (2 year term):

Open to Floor – No nominations

Registrar (2 year term):

Acclaimed: Cathy Drinkwater

House League Convener (2 year term):

Open to Floor – No nominations

Treasurer (2 Year Term):

Open To Floor – No nominations

Tournament Convener (2 Year Term):

Open to Floor – No nominations

Director Sponsorship & Fundraising (2 Year Term):

Acclaimed: Kyle Richie

Motion to adjourn meeting

Kyle, motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rich, all in favour, none opposed, motion passed.

Adjournment

8:12pm